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caudatus of Etienne St. Hilaire (Ann. du Mus. 1812, p. 166). It is, however, in my opinion, entirely distinct. The specimen in the collection of the Academy, from the Du Chaillu collection, though adult, as may be seen by the examination of the skull, is at least one-third smaller than the typical specimen of the *G. crassicaudatus* in the Paris museum; the nose is more pointed, and the general coloration very different.

The white tip of the tail, which is considered by Dr. Gray as accidental, I regard as a well-marked specific character, it being plainly indicated in two very young specimens, presented to the Academy by Dr. H. A. Ford several years since. One of these is decolorized by having been preserved in alcohol; the other is entirely of a dark slate color, with the exception of the white apex of the tail.

A curious typographical error is to be found in Maj. Le Conte's description of this species: the head is described as 1 foot 9 inches in length; for "head" read—from muzzle to tip of tail.

DAUBENTONIA MADAGASCARENSIS Etienne St. Hilaire, Decade Philosophique, t. iv. p. 193, 1795.

Cheiomys Madagascarensis Cuvier, Anat. Comparée, vol. i. 1800; Dict. des Sciences Nat.

This most curious mammal, whose place in the scale of nature was for a long time a point of discussion between the most eminent European naturalists, and which, even at the present day, has been regarded by some as a rodent (vide Tenney, Natural History, &c., N. Y., 1865, p. 2, fig. 57), though the manner of growth of its incisors is entirely different from that of the rodentia, was first described by the elder St. Hilaire under the generic name of *Daubentonia*, in 1795. In 1800, Cuvier, who long held that the creature was a rodent, re-described it under the name of *Cheiomys*, $\chi\epsilon\iota\rho, manus$; $\mu\upsilon\sigma, mus$. In the Diction. des Sciences Naturelles, 1816, Art. Aye Aye, he gives his reason for the change, made, it is said, with the consent of the original discoverer, in the following words: "Nous avons préféré *Cheiomys*, parceque l'usage de donner des noms d'homme n'est point reçu en zoologie comme en botanique." Is this sufficient ground for a change? In our opinion certainly not, unless the absurd rule first promulgated by the French naturalists, which would compel us to "considérer comme non avenues (*toutefois en les citant en synonymie*) les noms tombés en désuétude" (*Is. Geoff.* St. Hilaire, Cat. des Primates, p. xi,) should be generally adopted, which would still further confuse the work of zoological nomenclature, begun by Adam, and far from being completed at the present day.

April 2d.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-eight members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

"On dioicæus forms of *Vitis vinifera*." By Thomas Meehan.

The death was announced of Dr. George Jäger, of Stuttgart, Correspondent.

April 9th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-six members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

"Description of New Texan Myriapoda." By Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr.

[April,

"On two new Minerals from Chester Co." By Isaac Lea, LL. D.

Prof. Cope exhibited several vertebræ of a Gavial from the cretaceous marl of Burlington Co., N. J., and proposed for the new species the name of *Thoracosaurus brevispinus*.

A letter was read from George W. Tryon, Jr., offering his collection of Shells to the Academy on certain conditions, which, on resolution, were accepted. The collection consists of over 10,000 species, in addition to 100 jars of alcoholic specimens, mainly of naked mollusca. The collection is particularly rich in recently described species.

April 16th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-eight members present.

The death was announced of Dr. C. W. Pennock, on the 14th inst., a member.

April 23d.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-three members present.

The following was presented for publication :

"A third study of the Icteridæ." By John Cassin.

The death was announced of Mr. Samuel C. Morton, a member.

April 30th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-three members present.

The following were elected correspondents :

Col. F. F. Cavada, U. S. Consul at Trinidad ; Eugene Gaussoin, of Baltimore ; Alpheus Hyatt and F. W. Putnam, of Salem, Mass.

The following were elected members :

Wm. Hay, James H. Little, Beauveau Borie, J. Ross Snowden, Wm. W. Keen, Jr., M. D., Edward J. Nolan, M. D., Charles Magarge, Charles S. Coxe, Isaiah V. Williamson, Matthew Baird, Charles Wheeler, Robert H. Gratz, Adolph E. Borie, H. Pratt McKean, Geo. F. Tyler, Wistar Morris, Joseph F. Page, Israel Morris, A. Campbell, Thomas A. Scott, H. H. Houston, Charles Spencer, Gustavus S. Benson, Wm. A. Blanchard.

On favorable report of the respective Committees, the following were ordered to be published :

On EUCLASTES, a genus of extinct Cheloniidæ.

BY E. D. COPE.

This genus is established on a species represented by a single imperfect cranium, procured by Thos. Heritage from his marl excavations near Hurffville, in Camden Co., N. J. The matrix in which it is preserved is very simi-
1867.]